



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG - 1 2003

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Don R. Knowles
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Knowles:

The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) respectfully requests the initiation of Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7(a)(2) consultation. This consultation request addresses 4 Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESU) of Pacific salmon and steelhead that have been listed as Federally endangered or threatened, and one pesticide - Simazine. The ESUs involved in this request for consultation are: Central California Coast Coho Salmon, California Coastal Chinook Salmon, Central California Coast Steelhead, and the South-Central California Coast Steelhead.

We have determined that registered uses of Simazine will have no effect on the subject listed species or their critical habitat. However, consultation on this pesticide for these particular ESUs is nonetheless requested pursuant to a Consent Decree into which the EPA entered with Californians for Alternatives to Toxics. In that Decree, EPA agreed to request initiation of formal consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on particular pesticides/ESU combinations regardless of the outcome of our assessment.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this request or the materials I am submitting relevant to consultation.

attachments

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur-Jean B. Williams", is written over a horizontal line.

Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Chief
Environmental Field Branch
Office of Pesticide Programs (7506C)